

BUFFER STATUS IN AN ASYMMETRICAL GAP ENVIRONMENT

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5 ABSTRACT

 A method for determining buffer status, the method including
but not limited to keying a buffer status to a transport gap other
than a standard SONET transport gap. In various embodiments,
hardware and/or software are utilized to effect the foregoing-
10 described method. A related method for maintaining communications
when using asymmetrical gapping structures, the method including but
not limited to detecting a transition involving at least one SONET
frame; engaging in negative stuffing, in response to the detecting
yielding a determination that a receive FIFO buffer is almost full
15 during the transition involving at least one SONET frame; and
engaging in positive stuffing, in response to the detecting yielding
a determination that a receive FIFO buffer is almost empty during the
transition involving at least one SONET frame. In various
embodiments, hardware and/or software are utilized to effect the
20 foregoing-described method. A related method for maintaining
communications when using asymmetrical gapping structures, the method
including but not limited to detecting a transition involving at
least one SONET frame; engaging in negative stuffing, in response to
said detecting yielding a determination that a transmit FIFO buffer
25 is almost full during the transition involving at least one SONET
frame; and engaging in positive stuffing, in response to said
detecting yielding a determination that a transmit FIFO buffer is
almost empty during the transition involving at least one SONET
frame. In various embodiments, hardware and/or software are utilized
30 to effect the foregoing-described method.

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